

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

JOSHUA LEDERBERG  
JOSEPH D. GRANT PROFESSOR  
OF GENETICS

May 2, 1978

Dr. James F. O'Donnell  
Division of Research Resources  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Dr. O'Donnell:

Thank you for your letter of April 24 and for your invitation to serve on the Biotechnology Resources Advisory Committee. I must of course take pleasure at the confidence which is entailed in your invitation, and the knowledge of the importance of the mission of your division.

On the other hand, as you may know, I am about to undertake a demanding task as President of The Rockefeller University also beginning July 1. In the circumstances, it simply would not be either very realistic or very prudent to accept still further commitments beyond those already made or which are inextricably linked to this new position. I hope that after I have been in place for a little while I will be in a better position to assess what I can do by way of further service along these lines and that it would then be possible for me to be more responsive to such obligations. Meanwhile, if there are other tasks of shorter duration and compass whereby I can be more likely to be able to be of help, I hope you will not hesitate to inquire about the possibility.

Yours sincerely,

JL/gel